

Kahalani suspends two border policemen filmed beating Palestinians

INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani last night suspended from active duty two border policemen shown earlier in the evening on Channel 1 hitting and kicking several Palestinian workers they halted near the A-Ram junction in north Jerusalem.

The footage, shown on the *Mabat* newsreel and reportedly taken by a Palestinian who happened upon the scene, also showed the border policemen sitting on one of the workers and forcing him to do push-ups.

In the footage, a Palestinian man is seen approaching the border policemen, apparently asking why they are abusing the men and is himself then hit by one of the border policemen.

Mabat identified the Palestinians as workers who were illegally trying to enter Israel and

BILL HUTMAN and Itim quoted Palestinian sources as saying abuse by border policemen is common. The workers shown in the footage were reportedly arrested for illegally trying to enter the country.

The ministry spokesman said in a statement released just after the footage was shown that Kahalani ordered Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz to suspend the two from active duty, pending the completion of an investigation.

"We have an excellent Border Police, and I will not allow such terrible behavior of a few to hurt the entire force," Kahalani said in the statement.

Border Police chief Yisrael Sadan also "strongly condemned the phenomenon that

was shown in the footage," the Border Police spokesman said. Sadan called on the Justice Ministry's Police Investigations Division to carry out an inquiry into the policemen's behavior, and Hefetz asked the division to speed up the inquiry. Hefetz also asked Sadan to meet with border policemen serving in northern Jerusalem and to make clear to them the seriousness of the incident.

"Policemen that act as those did in the television footage have no place in the Border Police," Sadan said in a statement.

In response, Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid said: "The two villains in Border Police clothing who mistreated Palestinian workers must be brought to trial tomorrow and serve a long sentence."



President of the European Parliament Klaus Hänsch stands at attention after laying a wreath at the Knesset yesterday. (Brian Henders)

Mordechai invites Assad to negotiating table again,

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday reiterated his call to Syrian President Hafez Assad to return immediately to the negotiating table and resume the peace talks.

Mordechai issued his call following a visit to IDF troops in the security zone in which he accompanied President Ezer Weizman. He stressed that Israel wanted to achieve progress in the peace process and not confrontation.

"We don't want confrontation or confrontation. We want discussions and advancement on the peace process, with the Syrians, the Lebanese and everywhere else," Mordechai told reporters.

"Together with that, however, we will safeguard the security interests that are important to us."

"I have said and will say again - nobody should threaten us. We are not threatening anybody. If somebody rises up against us, however, we have all the power to do what needs to be done," he said.

Mordechai and Weizman met with reporters on the northern border after visiting troops at the IDF's Karkum position, in the

DAVID RUDGE zone's western sector, which was the scene of several Hizbullah attacks over a week ago.

In one of the incidents on November 9, Hizbullah gunmen attacked the outpost with mortars and light weapons and scored a direct hit with a Sagger missile on a tank at the post.

Sgt. Erez Yitzhak, 19, of Netanya, was killed and three other members of his tank crew were wounded. The following day Hizbullah gunmen hit another tank in the same area wounding three more soldiers, one seriously. The position itself, deep in the zone and only one kilometer from the border, has been attacked on several occasions in the past year.

The coooy which took Weizman, Mordechai and their aides to the Karkum position was heavily protected and the president later took time out to show the soldiers the bullet-proof vest he was wearing.

Hizbullah, meanwhile, has blamed Israel for an abortive car

bomb attack Saturday against district Hizbullah commander Mussa Mutadab near his home in As-Samir village, south of Tyre. The area was cleared before the bomb later exploded. Hizbullah charged that the attack had been carried out by the IDF with the aid of SLA "collaborators." It claimed Israel had broken the Grapes of Wrath understandings because the attempt had been made in a residential area where civilians could have been harmed.

Liam Collins adds: Regarding Syria, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the Syrians had planned a surprise, limited attack on Israel shortly after the new government formed in the hope that the international community would prevent Israel from responding. He said that Israel had sent messages via the US, France and Russia making it clear that this would not work because there was no element of surprise and the rest of the world would not comply.

Gov't approves Emmanuel projects

HERB KEINON THE Industry and Trade Ministry has given the settlement of Emmanuel commitments to help it develop an industrial area, to complement the 1,200 housing units that were recently approved for construction in the settlement.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai recently gave final approval for the construction of the homes, with 500 units to be built in 1997, and the rest in 1998.

The Emmanuel projects are the first in the settlements to be initiated by the Netanyahu government. The government has given the green light for some 2,000 units to be built in Matiyahu/Kiryat Sefer, but these plans were drawn up under the previous government.

Shmuel Lanza, the head of the Emmanuel Local Council, said the construction in Emmanuel will be the first development in the haredi settlement in Samaria, some 20 minutes from Pnath Tikvah and 40 minutes from Bnei Brak, in 12 years.

"This will help us enormously," Lanza said. "I see it as humanitarian aid." Emmanuel ran into especially hard times in the late 1980s, Lanza said, when the firm building the settlement went bankrupt. Some 200 families never got the apartments they had purchased.

Lanza said that the commitment to build the industrial area is also important for the settlement, since it will generate employment. There are currently some 650 families in the settlement.

In addition to the apartments, the \$37 million project will include a school and senior citizens home.

A Defense Ministry spokesman, asked to confirm the statement the ministry puts out whenever asked about its settlements policy: "The Defense Minister approves, from time to time, and in coordination with government decisions, the expansion of settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, after judging them from a legal vantage point, and in consideration of the needs on the ground."

Lanza said there will be no problem selling the apartments.

"The haredi community is crying out for housing," he said.

European Parliament president addresses Knesset

KLAUS Hänsch, president of the European Parliament, was a guest of the Knesset yesterday, during which he was met with a full honor guard and flag-raising ceremony. In a speech in the plenum, Hänsch said he felt particularly honored to address the Israeli parliament as a German.

He stressed that the history of Europe and the Jewish People were entwined and that the Jewish population had for more than 1,000 years helped form European values regarding topics such as freedom and human rights.

Hänsch said the Holocaust had killed the spirit of Europe by denying these values. Discussing the need for peace, he noted that Britain, Germany and France had realized a dream by joining together in a united Europe after centuries of hostilities.

He said the European Parliament saw in Israel a strong democracy, interested in peace despite differ-

LIAT COLLINS ences over how to achieve it.

"The message I bring you today from all members of the European Parliament is first and foremost a message of encouragement, friendship and hope," he said.

He warned that terror attacks could threaten the peace process at any stage and said terror should be fought with full force and the murderers brought to trial.

"The Palestinian authorities must work together with your security forces to wipe out violence and terror," Hänsch said.

He also denounced Israeli extremists.

Hänsch said security must be Israel's primary concern.

"The Israeli People has the right to safe borders and safety within its borders," he said. "This is the message I will convey in Ramallah on Wednesday."

Hänsch called for the Oslo

Accords to be implemented in their entirety and described the settlements as an obstacle to peace.

Speaker Dan Tichon welcomed Hänsch, noting he represents an institution numbering 626 members of parliament from 15 countries. Tichon stressed the democratic nature of the Knesset and extended an invitation to all members of the European Parliament to visit Israel and become more familiar with the facts.

"We sincerely hope that a distinguished body such as the European Parliament will take a balanced and responsible approach towards Israel and the Middle East in face of the numerous challenges still ahead of us," Tichon said.

Both Hänsch and Tichon admitted that Israel and Europe did not always see eye-to-eye on the Middle East, but both expressed hope for a continued strong relationship.

Mubarak: Syrian war unlikely

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak said yesterday that he does not believe another war between Israel and Syria is possible, but warned that a wave of terrorist violence threatens the Middle East if the stalemate in the peace process continues.

In an interview printed yesterday in the French daily *Liberation*, Mubarak said: "I do not think a war is possible, for example, between Syria and Israel. But violence is possible, and it is much more complicated to handle than a war. In a war, it is clear, there is a target, forces against other forces. But ter-

ELDAD BECK rorism, how can one control that? "I'm still convinced that the majority [of the people in the Middle East] wants to achieve peace, but if the situation stays as it is now, the majority might join the activities of the terrorist groups, and that is dangerous for everybody."

Mubarak revealed in the interview that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told him during their meeting in July that he intends to respect and implement all the

agreements signed by the previous Labor government, and that he would sign a permanent peace agreement with the Palestinians, "as Begin had signed with us."

However, the Egyptian president stated that none of these promises has yet been fulfilled.

Nevertheless, Mubarak added that he hasn't lost faith in Netanyahu.

"I know that he has difficulties," Mubarak said. "For that reason, I try to encourage him to act, to explain to the public what is necessary to do in order to reach peace and stability. What should he do? Before anything else, he must realize that his demand to have the right to chase [terrorists in Hebron] is not acceptable to the Palestinians."

According to Mubarak, this demand is illogical since it will create an authority higher than the Palestinian Authority. Such a situation risks provoking new acts of violence and revenge, he said. He said that his only message to the Israeli public is that peace is worth all concessions and compromises.

He also said that he has no plans to travel to Jerusalem to help advance the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

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'Yediot' reporter: Netanyahu, Peres rushed to deny story before it was born

MICHAL YUDELMAN SHIMON Schiffer, the senior *Yediot Aharonot* reporter who "scoped" the report that Labor leader Shimon Peres allegedly advised Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to delay signing the Hebron agreement, said yesterday: "In all honesty, we must admit we are all instruments in the hands of our sources, and every report has a purpose."

Schiffer said the "sources" try to use journalists for their purposes. "And that's how we obtain information. The big question is what one does with the information. Whether you check it thoroughly enough, whether you can tell who is a reliable source and whether you make enough efforts not to make a mistake."

Schiffer said the story about Peres was still in the checking out stage when it suddenly broke and created a storm, due to the rash, almost panicky behavior of both sides. "I was surprised by the prime minister's hasty behavior, as well as that of Peres's bureau. If they tried to minimize the damage, they magnified it."

"It was still an unhatched egg. I was looking into the information and asked Netanyahu's spokesman Shah Bazak to check it out. At the same time I called Peres's spokeswoman Aliza Goren and asked her how to get

Peres, who was in Stockholm. To my astonishment, Bazak called me back at 8 p.m. and told me Netanyahu had called Peres and talked to him about it. Netanyahu also told Peres that he hoped the opposition knew who is running things. I was surprised Netanyahu rushed to tell Peres, perhaps he feared he would be fingered as the source.

"A similar thing happened on Peres's side. I was trying to trace Peres and his spokeswoman Aliza Goren ran to Channel 2 to give a comment on a story which was not yet born."

Commenting on Peres and Netanyahu's denials of the report, Schiffer said it's the sort of report which is denied by its sources afterwards, like a rumor of a devaluation which finance ministers traditionally deny. He said it is customary to receive information from a source who demands to remain unnamed.

Referring to Peres's attacks on his publishing the story without substantiating it and his demand that Schiffer expose his source, Schiffer said, "I would never expose a source, no matter how juicy the story, even if it were Peres. Peres himself made extensive use of such unnamed reports during his career as prime minister. He and his assistants turned it into an art."

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First Palestinian art exhibition at Israel Museum begins today

KHALIL Rabach carefully weaves together white and gray strands of cotton and steel wool, combining the rough and soft materials into a tunnel meant to challenge the assumptions of those who enter it.

The installation by Rabach - the first Palestinian artist to have his work exhibited at the Israel Museum - will go on display today as part of an exhibit of young artists.

At first glance, Rabach's hanging tunnel appears to be a wall with no entrance. But if one looks harder, three entrances can be found.

"It's to show that things are not as they seem," Rabach said. "We all need to look a little deeper. We all need to have our preconceptions challenged."

Rabach, who works as an architect in Ramallah, said he chose the divergent materials to show that when put together, they hold together beautifully.

"Two different things, like two different people, can be close and combine together," Rabach said.

The artist refused to comment further on the symbolism of his work, adding only that "Of course a political message could be found in this."

So that he could prepare for his exhibit, the Israel Museum had to get the authorities to issue Rabach a special permit to enter Jerusalem.

"I can only be in Jerusalem until 7 p.m. It's not enough time when you are preparing for an exhibit," he said.

Rabach had to give the museum a list with the names of 10 family members and friends so they could get permits to attend the opening night of his show.

Spokeswoman Mimi Tsadok said the museum hoped the exhibit would encourage Palestinians to visit, and that it would open the door for future exhibits by Palestinian artists.

The exhibit also includes works by a Japanese and two Israeli artists.

Rabach, 35, has a degree in fine arts and architecture from the University of Texas. (AP)

MK Haim Dayan, wife kiss and make up on TV

MICHAL YUDELMAN MK Haim Dayan, of Tsomet, whose wife lodged a police complaint against him for battery, apologized to her last night in a somewhat tense joint interview on Channel 2.

At the end of the interview the MK, who is also deputy Knesset speaker, kissed her and the two said they were off on a new start.

Mrs. Dayan arrived at the Migdal Ha'emek police station Saturday morning bruised and battered, and complained that her husband, a former policeman, had assaulted her. Afterwards she was treated at the emergency room of Afula's Ha'emek Hospital for blows to parts of her legs, neck and face. But less than 24 hours later she withdrew her complaint.

MK Dayan said recently in a Knesset debate about battered wives that men who hit their

spouses should have their "arms broken." Regarding the incident with his wife, Dayan said there was "an argument and a misunderstanding, but no physical violence."

"I didn't think it would happen," Dayan said, asked how things between himself and his wife reached this state. "I thought my wife would understand it, but she claims, justly, that she's not interested if I'm an MK, or even a prime minister. She wants her husband at home."

LIAT COLLINS adds: Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon has granted Dayan's request for four days' leave from the Knesset this week.

Today the Knesset is dedicating a session to domestic violence and Dayan, as a deputy speaker, could have presided over the session.

1 hour, 1 agora sentence for soldiers' mistaken Palestinian killing

A MILITARY court in Lod Sunday jailed four soldiers for one hour and fined them one agora for killing a Palestinian by "not following the guidelines for opening fire."

The undercover unit soldiers had reached a plea bargain in which they would plead guilty in return for a light sentence.

The incident for which the four were convicted occurred on November 13, 1993 when Iyad Badran, 18, was shot dead by soldiers at a roadblock near Salfit. The driver, Bilal Anli, 20, who was a witness said that he saw no roadblock but only a flashing light and flares. Blinded, he stopped anyway. The soldiers then opened fire, hitting Badran, he said, according to testimony taken by human rights activist Bassem Eid. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Hadassah demands government pay it for PA debts

THE Hadassah Medical Organization petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday to demand that the government pay it the money it is owed by the Palestinian Authority by deducting this sum from the funds it transfers to the PA every month.

The PA currently owes Hadassah hospitals some NIS 10 million, and the sum is growing every month, the petition said. Furthermore, the lack of funds is

beginning to damage the hospitals' stability, it said.

Until the Oslo Accords were signed, Arab residents of the territories who were treated by Hadassah were paid for by the Civil Administration.

Oslo, however, stipulated that the PA would assume responsibility for the health care of all the Arabs in the territories. According to the petition, the government informed Hadassah that it should

continue to accept Arabs from the territories as patients, but that bills should now be sent to the PA. In December 1994, the PA sent a letter to Hadassah promising to pay all such bills.

Since then, however, the bills have been paid only sporadically, and the PA's debt has mounted. The PA acknowledges the debt, the petition said, but it has allocated no money to pay it in its 1997 budget. *Evelyn Gordon*

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Attorney MEIR ARANNE
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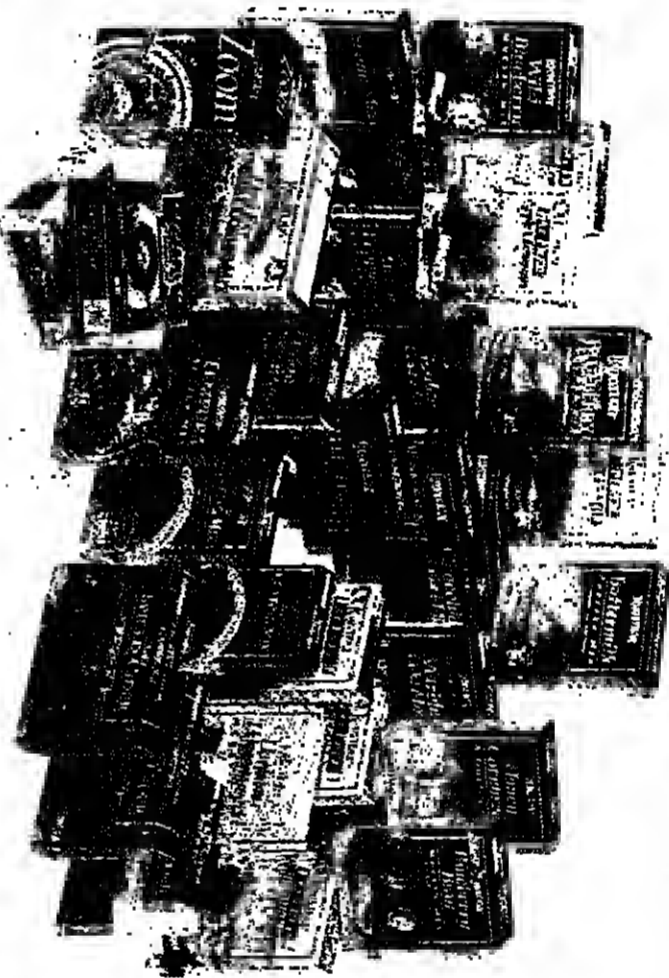
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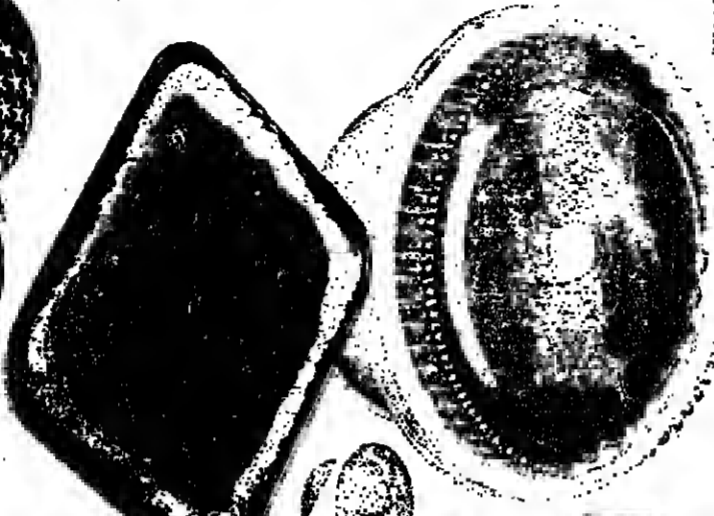
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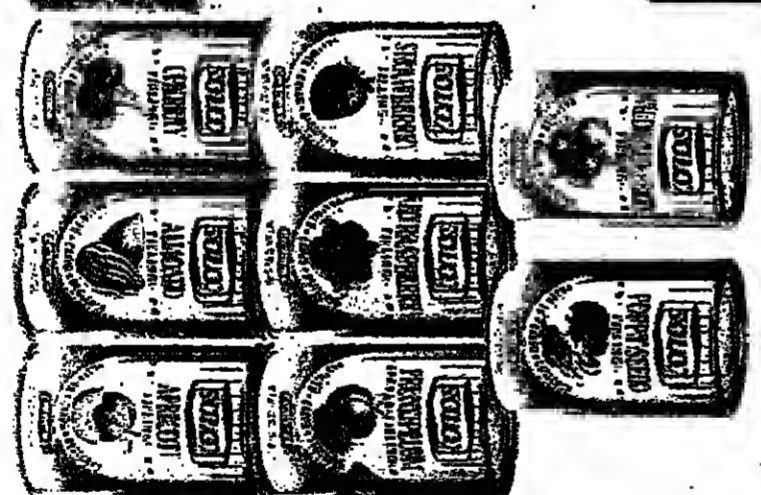
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Katzover to discuss location of Goldstein's grave with family

Court hears Popper's appeal

EVELYN GORDON

HERB KEINON and film

KIRYAT Arba Local Council head Zvi Katzover, as well as settlement rabbi, will be meeting with the family of Baruch Goldstein "soon" to "discuss" what to do with the controversial grave at the entrance to the settlement, a settlement spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman said that Katzover will not tell the family to move the grave, but will say that it is not in the settlement's interest for it to remain where it is.

"The Kiryat Arba Council will oppose any decision made regarding the grave, including moving it to another site or a site within the Green Line, if the family opposes it, or if Kiryat Arba Rabbi Dov Lior opposes it," a council spokesperson said.

Goldstein was buried in the Meir Kahane Park at the entrance to the settlement after the IDF refused to allow him to be buried in the Jewish cemetery in Hebron because of the fear that it would lead to a "pogrom."

The council was not involved in the decision on where to bury Goldstein, Katzover said. Then-OC Central Command Shaul Mofaz had discussed the matter with Goldstein's widow and with Lior.

The IDF Spokesman said the IDF has not yet come to a decision regarding moving the grave.

According to Katzover, Goldstein's family had originally requested that he be buried in Hebron. However, due to concerns that Arabs would desecrate his grave, the family agreed to a proposal that he be buried in Kiryat Arba in a coffin, so that it would be possible to later move him to somewhere within Hebron itself.

In the two and a half years since the massacre, the family has laid a tile floor around the grave, put in bookshelves, a wash-basin and lights. Goldstein is also referred to on the grave as a "martyr" who died "sanctifying God's name."

The council also has not paid for any of this, a council spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza yesterday came out in favor of moving the grave.

"While it is apparent that the people of Kiryat Arba honor the memory of a doctor who served them



A man stands next to Baruch Goldstein's grave in Kiryat Arba yesterday.

for a decade in sickness and health, the presence of his grave at the entrance to Kiryat Arba serves as a lightning rod for those who want to attribute his condemnable deed to all residents of Kiryat Arba and the territories," said Yechiel Leiter, a spokesman for the council.

"It should be moved to a more modest place where it does not serve as a centerpiece and attraction for the media thirsty few that pay homage to his ghastly acts," Leiter said.

Leiter said that the matter should have been addressed earlier, but those responsible hoped that by paying it less attention it would have become less of an issue.

Unfortunately, a few people have made that impossible.

In a related matter, Yediot

Aharonov reported yesterday that Gershon Ben-Jones, who converted to Judaism and is the son of noted

archaeologist Wendel Jones, named his son born last week Yigal Baruch - after Yigal Amir and Baruch

Goldstein. Jones lives in the Mitzpe Yericho settlement. He refused to talk to the press yesterday.

Anonymous caller warns of bomb in Dahlia Yairi's studio

GREER FAY CASHMAN

become a place of pilgrimage. Soon after Yairi invited listeners to fax their comments on the growing popularity of Goldstein and Amir and the public endorsement of their actions, a telephone call was received from an unidentified person who said that a bomb was about to explode in Yairi's studio.

Police evacuated the area and

the broadcast continued from elsewhere. The threat proved to be a hoax, but many of the faxes which arrived at the studio indicated that there is considerable right-wing antagonism towards Yairi, who on many occasions has spoken out against Goldstein, Amir and their rabbinical mentors.

Yairi and several other broadcast journalists have received numerous threats of death or bodily harm.

Tourist arrested in connection with arm amputation

A RUSSIAN tourist was remanded for four days yesterday by the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on suspicion he was involved in the slicing off the arm of a Kiryat Shmona man in the capital's Old City on Saturday.

According to police, the amputation was an attempt to punish or scare the Kiryat Shmona man, Vladimir Suknev.

On Saturday, Suknev walked into the city's Magen David Adom station in Romema carrying a plastic bag that contained his left fore-

arm and hand. Suknev said he and the suspect, Genady Kuznezov, had gone to the Old City to try to sell a sword the two had bought in a gift shop a day earlier.

After separating from Kuznezov, Suknev said, three Arabs who had been following him suddenly jumped on him, grabbed the sword, and cut off his hand with it.

During yesterday's remand hearing, police said that Kuznezov had given a different version of events than that given by the wounded man. The police representative pre-

seated Judge Philip Marcus with classified evidence obtained from a search of Kuznezov's hotel room.

Police also noted that the pathology report did not support Suknev's description of the amputation. Suknev had said the arm had been cut off all at once, while the report indicated that first the man's fingers had been cut off, and only later the rest of his hand and forearm.

Kuznezov denied the allegations, and claimed his investigators had exerted undue pressure on him. (Jum)

British biologist receives Wolf Prize for genetic research

A BRITISH biologist whose research led to the discovery of the causes of genetic tumors will receive the 1996-97 Wolf Prize in medicine, the Wolf Foundation announced yesterday.

Mary Frances Lyon, 71, will be awarded the \$100,000 prize for discovering the process in which one of the two X-chromosomes present in the cells of female mammals is inactivated early in embryonic development. Her discovery led to improved detection of hereditary disorders.

Born in Norwich, Lyon received her doctorate from Cambridge. In 1955, she joined the Radiobiology Unit of the Medical Research Council in Chilton. She retired in 1990.

The Wolf prizes are given annually for outstanding achievements in chemistry, medicine, agriculture, mathematics and the arts. President Ezer Weizman will present the awards in Jerusalem next April.

The Wolf Foundation was established in 1975 by Ricardo Wolf, a German-born diplomat and philanthropist who emigrated to Cuba and served as Cuban ambassador to Israel. He died here in 1981. (AP)

City-sanctioned strike in Safed intensifies; employees demonstrate for salaries

DAVID RUDGE

ANGRY employees of the Safed Municipality hunkered the entrance to the town at the Biriya junction yesterday to protest the non-payment of their salaries.

The demonstration by hundreds of workers lasted over half an hour, causing traffic jams in the area.

Municipal services for Safed's 24,000 residents have been shut down since last Thursday, when the city council itself declared a strike, in an attempt to get the Interior Ministry to help cover the city's debts.

The strike was yesterday extended to all schools and kindergartens, keeping around 6,000 children at home.

Mayor Moshe Haniya noted that the city's accumulated debts now totalled over NIS 35 million, and it cannot pay its 500 workers.

"The municipality is bankrupt and simply cannot provide services to residents," said Haniya. "None of the workers, including pensioners, have received their October salaries and some haven't been paid for two months. Despite pleas for assistance, we have heard nothing from the Interior Minister, even since the strike started and the situation is going from bad to worse."

He noted that the workers themselves had been ordered to remain at their jobs by the Tel Aviv Labor Court. They could not work, however, because the city council itself had declared a strike.

"We now intend to intensify our actions. From [tonight] there will be no street lighting and [tomorrow] a demonstration is planned in Jerusalem," said Haniya.

"We are not calling on the government to cover all the outstanding debts of NIS 35m, because we know the government can't afford to, but at least give an advance so that we can solve the immediate problems," he said.

The Interior Ministry spokesman said plans had been drawn up in coordination with the auditor appointed to assist the city.

The ministry stressed, however, that the proposals were being held up by the Knesset Finance Committee, which would not approve the release of NIS 60m, agreed on by the Treasury and the ministry to help debt-ridden local authorities, including Safed.

Meanwhile, heads of the 53 Arab councils throughout the country, which together have accumulated debts totalling NIS 410 million, are to demonstrate in Jerusalem today to press for government aid.

Israeli women ignore requests for mammogram testing

EVELYN GORDON

ONLY 25 percent of Israeli women who have been asked to undergo a routine mammogram examination have actually showed up for the test, compared to 70% in Western countries, the Knesset State Control Committee was told yesterday.

The committee was discussing implementation of a program to give periodic mammograms to all women over the age of 50, as well as women over 40 with a family history of cancer. The periodic tests are meant to enable women who develop breast cancer to detect the disease while it is still in an early stage, since the chances of successful treatment are much greater if the disease is caught early.

The program was recommended by the National Oncology Council in 1993, though the health funds only began implementing it in October 1995.

Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz), responding to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat's findings with respect to the large number of women who fail to take these tests, said a massive public campaign is necessary to impress women with the importance of undergoing the periodic examina-

tions since breast cancer is one of the leading causes of premature death in women. The government, the press and the medical community should all be involved in this campaign, he said.

Health Ministry Director-General Prof. Gabi Barabash told the committee that he expects all women between the ages of 50 and 74 to have been invited for their first mammogram by the end of 1997.

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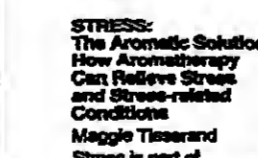
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Belgian deputy PM denies sex crime allegations

BRUSSELS (Reuter) - Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo said yesterday he was the subject of a judicial investigation, following press allegations that he had indulged in sex with minors.

Di Rupo, who denies the allegations, said in a statement the public prosecutor's office in Brussels had lodged a request with the Belgian parliament that he be charged - a first step towards lifting his immunity from prosecution.

The weekend allegations that he and a francophone regional minister were involved in pedophilia were a further shock to Belgians, already reeling from child sex and political murder scandals.

The new scandals affected Belgian financial markets, causing concern about government stability and weighing on the franc.

Lifting Di Rupo's parliamentary immunity would give him the chance to view the dossier against him, something that he has said he wants.

In his statement, he said the request would allow him to tackle the issue head-on so that, "I hope, this confusion, these mix-ups and fabrications can be stopped. That is essential."

"I wish to reaffirm that I have never had anything at all to do

with pedophilia. No action in my private life has ever harmed anybody," he said.

The president of the Belgian parliament, Raymond Langendries, told the Belga news agency earlier that he had called a meeting of party leaders on Tuesday to discuss a file he had received on a government minister. He gave no details.

Constitutional experts said any decision to lift Di Rupo's immunity - which would have to be taken by a full session of parliament - would not necessarily force him to resign.

Jean-Pierre Grafé, a minister in the Walloon government who was named by Flemish newspapers yesterday alongside Di Rupo as being involved in sex with minors, also denied the allegations although francophone community leaders were to meet today.

Di Rupo, who is also in charge of Belgium's fight against pedophile porn on the Internet, accused his political opponents of trying to stir up trouble.

A spokesman for the Brussels public prosecutor's office said: "The prosecutor general has begun work on a dossier in which two names of two ministers appear." He gave no details.

British co. shipped arms to Rwanda as genocide went on

Ben-Gurion cited in documents as one of three airports for shipments

A British-based company supplied arms and ammunition to the former Rwandan government after it began slaughtering a half-million of its own people in 1994, according to documents that Hutu militias left behind when they retreated in eastern Zaire.

The documents, made available to The Associated Press yesterday, indicated the Rwandan government bought more than \$5.5 million worth of machine guns, mortars, grenades, ammunition and other military hardware from the company, Mil-Tec Corp., between April and July 1994.

Some shipments appeared to contravene a UN embargo on exporting arms to Rwanda, imposed in May 1994 following acts of genocide by the former Hutu-led government against minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

The arms were flown out of London's Heathrow Airport, Tel

Aviv; and Tirana, Albania, via such carriers as Belgium's Sabena, Germany's Lufthansa and Russia's Aeroflot, according to the documents.

They were delivered to the Rwandan capital, Kigali, and then later - when government forces fled into neighboring Zaire - flown to Goma and Kinshasa, the Zairian capital. Payments were made through Belgium, France and Egypt, the documents said.

A UN Commission of Inquiry has been investigating a British company for allegedly supplying arms to the ex-Hutu government or its militia allies after they fled to Zaire, it was reported earlier this month. It could not be learned whether Mil-Tec is that company.

The continued arms trade in the volatile region has drawn sharp protest from international human rights groups, which allege that the French government also supplied weapons to the retreating

TONY SMITH
GOMA, Zaire

Hutus after the 1994 genocide. France denies it.

Public pressure led the South African government on November 6 to announce it was suspending arms shipments to the new, Tutsi-led Rwandan government.

The documents were found in a bus, part of a wrecked convoy abandoned by retreating Hutu militias in Sake, 27 kilometers west of Goma. The Hutu militias, remnants of the former Rwandan army that fled Tutsi forces in 1994, were fleeing from Zairian rebel troops sweeping through eastern Zaire.

The documents indicated Mil-Tec is based in Douglas, the Isle of Man, off England's northwest coast, and in Hove, 80 kilometers south of London. But it is not listed in telephone directories and

could not be reached for comment. The documents included demands by Mil-Tec to the Rwandan government for overdue payment of \$1.9 million. "We have been suppliers to your ministry for over five years and were able to assist you with supplies during your time of need," one document said.

It added that Mil-Tec was "approached for very urgent supplies" on April 10, 1994 - four days after the massacres began in Rwanda. Mil-Tec made that delivery within eight days, the document said.

Many victims of the slaughter were killed by machetes and other simple weapons, but others were killed by guns and grenades.

The massacres went on into June 1994, and the abandoned documents indicated Mil-Tec arms shipments continued until July 13. They included several million rounds of ammunition, thousands

of machine guns and more than 15,000 mortar rounds and grenades.

In London, Defense Secretary Michael Portillo said he didn't know about the shipments and a "knee-jerk reaction from the government would not be appropriate."

"We want to make sure that some of the most evil people in the world don't get hold of weapons that have anything to do with Britain," Portillo said on BBC radio.

It could not be learned immediately whether the Mil-Tec arms exports were licensed by Britain or other governments concerned. When shipping to embargoed destinations, arms dealers sometimes use fraudulent "end user" documentation purporting that the arms are headed elsewhere.

It could also not be determined in what countries the weapons were made. (AP)

Volcker Commission to announce its planned Swiss probe

NEW YORK (Reuter) - A commission headed by former US Federal Reserve Bank chairman Paul Volcker plans to announce sweeping moves today to investigate the role of Swiss banks in dealing with the accounts of Holocaust victims and with assets looted by the Nazis.

Sources close to the commission said yesterday that the seven-member Volcker commission was expected to announce the names of three accounting firms to investigate audits of the banks with their cooperation - meaning that traditional Swiss bank secrecy rules would be suspended.

The first stage of the audit will be a six-month long pilot project to determine the methodology of the probe - by taking a representative sampling of bank records and tracing their depositions.

The sources said the commission would not restrict itself to dormant accounts but would investigate whether the accounts of Holocaust victims disappeared as a result of illegal actions including embezzlement. The commission would also probe the extent to which the Swiss allegedly handled looted Nazi assets.

The commission was formed last May with Volcker as chairman and three members appointed by Swiss banks and three by international Jewish groups.

It was formed after allegations

surfaced accusing Swiss banks of refusing to return to family survivors monies deposited by Holocaust victims.

Meanwhile, a Swiss bank has distributed a memo to its North American employees saying that it never had an account for Adolf Hitler, as American intelligence has claimed, and that private Swiss banks did not trade in looted Nazi gold.

The memo from the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) said it was aimed at setting the record straight in the controversy over whether Swiss banks still held millions of dollars in assets from Holocaust victims. It said recent reports had presented a distorted and erroneous impression of Swiss banks.

But the World Jewish Congress, which is spearheading a fight to find out what is contained in the dormant accounts still in Swiss banks, called the memo full of "blatant misrepresentations."

WJC Vice President Kalman Sultanik said the UBS memo "minimized or disguised the true nature of nefarious activities during World War II."

The memo said that commercial Swiss banks did not trade in looted Nazi gold and while the Swiss Central Bank did receive German gold, it had been assured by top Reichsbank officials that the gold it was sending to Switzerland had not been looted.

FBI investigating pilot claim of light streak near TWA crash site

SMITHTOWN, New York (AP) - The FBI said it is investigating a claim by a Pakistan Airlines pilot that he saw a streak of light in the skies during a weekend flight near the crash site of TWA Flight 800.

The source of the light was not immediately clear. A possible explanation is a meteor shower, which the National Weather Service confirmed was in the sky Saturday night when the pilot reported seeing the streak after taking off from New York's Kennedy Airport for Frankfurt, Germany.

The FBI is following up on the report. FBI spokesman Joseph Valiquette said Sunday. "At this point, we don't know what, if anything, was seen."

One of the pilots of the Pakistan Airlines plane said he didn't see the

light, but described to WCBS radio on Sunday what his co-pilot saw.

"A light, coming from the left-hand side to the right-hand side in front of the aircraft," said pilot Wajid Shah. "It was about three to four miles (4.8 to 6.4 kilometers) in front of the aircraft and was above the aircraft."

Shah said they were told by Boston air traffic controllers that there were no military exercises in the area.

A TWA plane flying immediately behind the Pakistani jet Saturday made a similar sighting and asked to turn around. The New York Post reported yesterday, citing aviation sources. The TWA plane was rerouted and the air corridor used by the Pakistan Airlines flight was closed, the newspaper said.



Opposition leader Vuk Drasovic (right) raises his hands in front of the crossed-out picture of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic during a rally in Belgrade yesterday to celebrate victories in local elections over the weekend. The Serbian opposition scored major victories in the country's biggest cities, including Belgrade. (Reuter)

Gaddafi invites Jews to return to former homes

ELDAD BECK
PARIS

LIBYAN leader Muammar Gaddafi said yesterday that he wants to save the Jews from the whole world hates the Jews, and therefore they were expelled from all the countries and put in one state.

"They were thrown out from everywhere, from Russia, from Europe, from Ethiopia. It is a real plot against them, that is meant to put them all in one state. I invite them, therefore, to go back to their homes, in Libya, in Africa, in Russia and also Alaska," Gaddafi stated.

The Libyan leader said he was in favor of peace, but even so he refused to recognize Israel.

"Make Israel disappear does not mean making the Jews disappear. East Germany disappeared, and the Germans were not eliminated," Gaddafi explained.

According to Gaddafi, the Arab-Israeli peace accords did not bring peace, since the "Israeli plan" has not changed since 1948.

"They [the Israelis] have no intention to evacuate the Golan taken from Syria in 1967. There has never been a recognition of a Palestinian state, not during the period of Rabin, and even less than that now under Netanyahu. As to Jerusalem, there are only 5% left of it for the Arabs," Gaddafi said.

Albright repeats veto threat as UN opens talks on Boutros-Ghali

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The United States stood alone yesterday in opposing a second term for Boutros Boutros-Ghali, as the Security Council met to pick a secretary-general to lead the United Nations into the next century.

During a closed-door meeting, US Ambassador Madeleine Albright told the 14 other council members that she had written instructions to veto the 74-year-old Egyptian because he had lost the confidence of the Republican-controlled Congress, diplomatic sources said on condition of anonymity.

African diplomats, who support Boutros-Ghali, huddled privately to decide what to do if the veto is cast. The Africans have insisted that their continent deserves two terms in the post as has been UN tradition.

The United States is one of five permanent council members which have veto power.

A US official, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, said Secretary of State Warren Christopher had given Albright written instructions to deny Boutros-Ghali a second term.

The official said the American Congress had lost confidence in Boutros-Ghali, and that as long as he remained in power, Congress

Romania's new leader wins support, ponders reform

ROMANIA's president-elect Emil Constantinescu won Western backing and pandered the shape of a government to implement promised reforms yesterday after his historic defeat of ex-communists.

Constantinescu, 57 today, had a much bigger margin of victory over incumbent Ion Iliescu than predicted.

He said the outcome amounted to a vindication of the 1989 revolt that brought down dictator Nicolae Ceausescu but did not fulfill its promise of real democratic and market reforms under ex-communists who then held power for seven years.

"I am convinced we will be able to make the necessary effort," he said in a radio speech. "We will succeed if we do away with incompetence and theft and if the austerity program starts with austerity for the people at the top."

Constantinescu's win completed the rout of leftists begun this month when centrists ousted Iliescu's party from government and gave him free rein to launch faster reforms to improve living standards among the lowest in Eastern Europe.

Analysts predicted the new government, drawn mainly from Constantinescu's Democratic Convention, would take shape over the next seven to 10 days.

Constantinescu told radio listeners his priorities were opening up capital markets, lifting restrictions on currency markets and ending foreign investment barriers.

"Romania will almost certainly be better viewed in the outside world now," said commentator Steian Thase. "We will probably see a number of governments in the next few years, but that's not necessarily unstable. It's a bit like an ice hockey team switching lines."

With 96 percent of the vote counted, Constantinescu held a 54 percent to 46 percent lead over Iliescu. The outcome confirmed exit polls broadcast minutes after voting closed.

Constantinescu's support was particularly strong among more sophisticated city voters and in areas inhabited by the 1.6 million-strong Hungarian minority. One such county gave him 91 percent - a reaction to the outgoing president's campaign bid to question Hungarians' loyalty to the state.

Death toll rises to 50 in Russian building explosion

MOSCOW (AP) - Rescuers pulled more bodies from the wreckage of an apartment building yesterday that housed Russian Border Guard officers and their families, bringing the death toll from a weekend explosion to 50.

One or more bombs may have been planted in the basement, officials said, though the exact cause of the explosion has not been established. Police detained a suspect, Russian reports said, but gave no details.

The Interfax news agency said rescue teams have pulled 39 survivors and 50 bodies from the ruins since the blast.

No one was found alive yesterday, but hopes flared after a dog was found alive in the debris, independent NTV television said, and rescuers vowed to keep digging around the clock.

The investigation must be carried out as quickly as possible to find out whether it was a terrorist act or a tragic accident," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said after visiting the site Sunday, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

The explosion destroyed at least 41 apartments in the building at Kaspysk, on the shores of the Caspian Sea in the southern Russian republic of Dagestan.

The dead include 15 children, said

Tatyana Timoshenkova, spokeswoman for Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry. A dozen people remained under the rubble.

Jazz musician dies 'the most beautiful death'

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California (AP) - A 79-year-old jazz musician making her theater debut as a spirit passing into heaven played her last note and died on stage of an apparent heart attack. Deedee Ball performed in the play, then collapsed at the piano while playing a musical introduction for the next act. "It was the most beautiful death I've ever seen," said Karen Hammon, a friend in the audience Friday night.

"It seemed like a perfect way for a musician to be able to leave: doing what they love to do on stage in front of a piano." Ball performed in an all-female local broadcast show in the 1940s and '50s, played on the Kay Starr radio show as a soloist, performed in clubs, wrote songs and traveled the world with jazz groups.

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Converting the faithful

THE religious parties, led by Shas, are to soon introduce a bill that would block the recognition of Reform and Conservative conversions in Israel. If it passes, it will be a Pyrrhic victory for the religious parties, and could seriously harm Israel-Diaspora relations.

sions that are done in the United States or elsewhere in the world. We are going to maintain the status quo scrupulously." The subtext here is that Netanyahu will support a law that affirms the current practice of not recognizing non-Orthodox conversions carried out in Israel, so long as Diaspora conversions are unaffected.

NO, OF COURSE WE HAVEN'T BROUGHT IN PALESTINIAN POLICEMEN TO HEBRON.



Binyamin and Irv

IT was watching Binyamin Netanyahu's performance at a parlor meeting in Jerusalem during the election campaign last spring that made me recall Irv for the first time in many years.

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

steady gaze at the persons filling the Katamon apartment last May and listening to his confident voice I suddenly saw Irv's face again.

appealed for help, via Washington, from Syria's President Assad, who graciously agreed to do what he could to call off the bombers.

Excuse me...

GWYNNE DYER

IF you believe the doctors nothing is wholesome; if you believe the priests nothing is moral; if you believe the soldiers nothing is safe.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CALL FOR RECONCILIATION

Sir - Hillel Halkin's article of November 5, "Hebron: a missed chance," would make very good sense were it not for the fact that deeply embedded in the souls of two peoples lies a deep sense of pain exacerbated by the massacres of the Jewish residents of Hebron in 1929 and of the worshippers in the mosque in 1994, neither of which can be swept under the carpet by either side, but is bound to remain an open wound until a suitable form of reconciliation or suhba is effected.

STICK TO YOUR GUNS

Sir - I am concerned by the policy of the new government because I am afraid that it cannot prevent a national disaster. And I am astonished by the silence of those who, for the past four years, have warned of an eventual conflagration and demanded a change of direction.

to realize that a treaty that is broken by one party is not binding on the other one. The acts of the PA constitute mockery of everything agreed upon.

A virus called defeatism

ALMOST simultaneously, the Israeli public learned (1) that Yitzhak Rabin had given President Clinton an undertaking to cede the Golan and 20 percent of the Kinneret to Syria in return for some security arrangements and normalization, and (2) that there has been a sharp decline in the motivation of young Israelis to serve in the IDF and enlist for combat units.

YOHANAN RAMATI

How to eradicate this defeatism, disguised as peace talk, with which Labor leaders, Meretz and the media have systematically fed the minds of our youth, our journalists and many high-ranking army officers, is a critical and burning question. For if the phenomenon persists the IDF will become useless and Israel's survival doubtful.

(legally elected, without benefit of the Arab vote) before coming out with statements about the modvoo of 18-year-olds who have been served the repeated message that Arafat is a friend and Netanyahu an enemy of peace.

DIFFERENCE

Sir - What is the basic difference between the policies of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and his successor Shimon Peres, and the policies of the present Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

CHAINING PATIENTS TO BED

Sir - You carried a story about "chaining patients to bed" in your October 20 issue and a reader's reaction in letters of October 31, so I thought that it was about time that the public read Hadassah's opinion.

that his chaining is vital for the safety of the public. The dispute that arises out of these opposite stands is a problem in itself. We have brought up the matter again and again before the authorities. It would be a good idea if the Israel Medical Association together with the Ministry of Health, the IDF and police were to give clear instructions on this subject.

When timid politicians squander the fruits of victory; when the media exalt peace treaties to the point that words on paper and foreign guarantees (likely to prove worthless because of Western economic and strategic interests in the Arab states) become more important than the land we must defend; when both recent Labor prime ministers openly declared that we couldn't afford another war because there would be too many casualties in Tel Aviv, is it a wonder that our young people lack the motivation to do army service?

The infection runs deep. If it persists the IDF will become useless and Israel's survival doubtful

OSLO has already demoralized us to the point where OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai could openly express admiration for Yasser Arafat in an interview just days after Arafat ordered the Palestinian police to kill soldiers under Yanai's command - and not be cashiered. He even declared: "I do not consult with the political echelon."

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

Los Angeles.

Joachim Forars

Joachim Forars

The writer heads the Jerusalem Institute for Western Defense.

The writer is a London-based independent journalist and historian.

Arab theater gives polish to 'Anarchist'

THEATER REVIEW
NAOMI DOUDAI

Accidental Death of an Anarchist by Dario Fo. Arabic. Anton Shammas. Direction, Daniel Gidron. The Arab Theater in Israel at Wadi Salib.

WITH this, its third production, the newly formed Arab Theater in Israel is well on its way to being numbered among this country's most polished professional companies.

Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, written in 1994 at Beit Lessin in Hebrew, was dominated there by that consummate comedian Shmuel Vilozhny, in what was tantamount to stand-up comedy - which is to say that with his tongue-twisters and frenzied babbling style he took over the text and, in a marathon of Vilozhny madness, practically monopolized the show.

In this Arabic version, directed, incidentally, by an excellent newly returned Israeli director, there is more respect for the original text as well as for the cast of actors. While Norman Eisa, a talented comedian, is diverting as the anarchist-making madman, the talents of the remaining cast are not less exploited. The accent here is on

finely tuned and timed ensemble playing, rather than on the flamboyance of one star.

A judicious balance is preserved throughout, with Yussuf Abu Warda contrasting in a dry, understated performance with the subtle, more sophisticated persona projected by Makram Khoury and the over-excited antics of the inimitable Gassan Abbas. Salva Nakara, like them, prominent in past Haifa theater productions, gives a glamorous twist to the proceedings as a female of the journalistic species. Mahmud Kadach supports them with his delightfully poker-faced, petrified policeman.

Communication by means of body language, slapstick, rhythm, and even diction was so eloquent, that the absence of verbal meaning to non-Arabic speakers was no handicap to enjoyment. As might be expected, the sociopolitical character of the drama, a travesty of police ineptitude, was comically stressed. This reached a hilarious peak with the sidesplitting reordering of *The Internationale*. Here the political innuendo was fully projected and not, as was the case in the Beit



(From left) Makram Khoury, Yussuf Abu Warda and Norman Eisa enhance the comedy with body language, slapstick and rhythm. (Shouker Eytan)

Lessin version, consumed by the fireworks of the leading actor. Eli Sinai's impressive blow-up

of an actual newspaper photo taken at time of the "accident" opens the play. With his mud-green, bureau-

cratic-brown background to follow, the set supplies a telling contrast to the spirited action. As

regards the latter, a lot has been invested in Eran Lavie's pattern of movement with rewarding results.

Lapid quits show

GREER FAY CASHMAN

WHEN the news broke last Thursday that Yair Lapid had resigned from the popular *Weekend Entertainment* show, the first question that almost everyone asked was: "Because of Gil Kopatch?"

The answer was "No," because the furor over the unorthodox and somewhat irreverent Kopatch's interpretation of the Bible had already been settled, and his spot on the show had been assured by all the Broadcasting Authority's powers that be.

What caused Lapid to quit was an ongoing conflict with IBA technicians who will not allow entertainers on the show to bring their own sound technicians.

Lapid's problems with the technicians during his previous season brought about a request on his part to have the program taped at G.G. Studios in Tel Aviv instead of the IBA studios in Jerusalem. This created even greater friction between him and the IBA technicians. But what ultimately led to last Thursday's blow-up was the technicians' refusal to allow Arkadi Duchin to use his own soundman. Not only did they put their collective feet down, but threatened that the show would not be recorded unless he left the premises. Lapid retaliated by canceling the show altogether and opting for a quieter life.

In the days when Channel 1 was a monopoly, the IBA technicians could dictate the rules, and entertainers who would do almost anything for television exposure meekly complied.

But times have changed, and entertainers now have other outlets which happily accommodate their personal whims. If an entertainer feels more comfortable with his own soundman, then no one is going to spoil the show by insisting that he can't have him.

Thus top-flight entertainers have become increasingly reluctant to appear on Channel 1 programs, and are only too happy to appear with Dan Shilon, Dudu Topaz, Gidi Gov or other program hosts on Channel 2.

Lapid is but one of several program hosts to suffer at the hands of the IBA technicians. "Menny Michaeli was a previous victim," said Lapid; "she no longer has a show on Channel 1."

According to the IBA spokesman's office, no replacement has yet been found for Lapid. IBA chief Yair Stern has met with the technicians' representatives with a view to finding a compromise solution which will be acceptable to them, to program hosts and to entertainers, but has thus far been unsuccessful.

The unstoppable march of rock 'n' roll

The Concert for the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame
VARIOUS ARTISTS
(NMC)

IT is possible to argue both for and against the decision to open a Rock 'o' and Roll Hall of Fame, but there's no question that the concert for its inauguration last year is an electrifying statement of how encompassing rock has permeated all forms of popular music.

Here we have some of the original influences of rock: Al Green, Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis turning in top-notch performances alongside classic rock icons John Fogerty...the Allman Brothers Band, soul-greats James Brown, Aretha Franklin, and more contemporary (i.e., 1970s-1980s) visioaries like Bruce Springsteen, Bruce Hornsby and Jackson Browne.

Whether it's Green's gospel-inflected turn on Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come," Springsteen and the E-Street Band trying to keep up with Lewis on "Great Balls of Fire," or Melissa Etheridge's playful romp through a '60s girls-groups-medley, the

show is full of unscripted joy and exuberance.

Personal highlights include the Allman Brothers Band versions of old stalwarts "Blue Sky" and "One Way Out," which reaffirm their reputation as one of the world's greatest live bands, and Bruce Hornsby's loving keyboard tribute to the then recently deceased Jerry Garcia, as a prelude to an emotional "I Know You Rider."

Two minor complaints - Where are the British acts? After all it's out the American Rock 'o' Roll Hall of Fame. And why do acts from the late 1980s and the 1990s, besides Soul Asylum's able backing slots for punk pioneers Lou Reed and Iggy Pop, and Natalie Merchant's torch song contribution? But complaints aside, there is something for everyone here to remind us that rock 'o' roll does have a rich tradition, and it is fun to look back and bask in its glory once in a while.

Stoosb
SKUNK ANANSIE
(Helicon)

I HAVE to admit that this disc stayed on my shelf on listened to

IN TUNE
DAVID BRINN

longer than usual, because frankly, the cover was intimidating.

It shows a bald, black young lady with a menacing scowl and her formidable white teeth ready to take a bite out of anyone who looks the wrong way at her.

However, this lady, affectionately called Skin, while definitely possessing a mean streak, can also write great pop songs and sing them with gusto.

Fronting three male cohorts on their second album, Skin runs the gamut from headbanging metal to Sade chanteuse-style crooning.

As if suspected, some of the more come off's quite belligerent, such as "Yes It's F-ing Political" and "All I Want," a ranting breath of '77 punk.

But for over half the record, Skunk Anansie turns into an impeccable pop band that knows how to write hits.

Combining the hand's lean backing with Skin's raw yet attractive vocals, the group adeptly takes alienated themes found in "Infidelity" and "We Love Your

Apathy" and "Hedonism" and gets you to whistle along.

Now if we can just get Skin to smile once in a while.



The singer Skin may have a mean streak, but she writes great songs.

Among My Swan
MAZZY STAR
(NMC)

THIS MALE-FEMALE duo's third release finds it in the same dream sequence of its two predecessors.

Described by one critic as "comatose folk," Mazzy Star creates a merger of laid-back country-tinged folk and trippy layers of psychedelia.

And it does it well, albeit with some monotony. David Roback's slow-paced acoustic/electric synthesis provides the appropriate setting for Hope Sandoval's dour and detached vocals.

Nothing particularly stands out of the pack although "Rosebud" exemplifies the distorted otherworldliness the duo strives for.

If the Velvet Underground had Hope instead of Lou as a lead singer and it performed only ballads, it would have sounded something like this.

The Smiths is Dead
VARIOUS ARTISTS
(NMC)

THE SMITHS' third album, *The Queen is Dead*, is considered by

many (at least by me) to be one of the premier albums of the 1980s. So it's not surprising that the same folks who brought out the Leonard Cohen tribute album last year (*I'm Your Fan*), decided to pay homage by remaking the album track by track.

Using some little-known young alternative bands and a couple of semi-names, who provide their unique take on Morrissey's darkly humorous angst and Johnny Marr's melodic guitar mastery, the project ends up empty and lifeless.

Not one of the 10 Smiths gems are improved upon, or even come close to the original versions. Some of the major violations are Bis's vacuous rendition of "The Boy with the Thorn in his Side" and The Boo Radley's avant-garde attempt out do "The Queen is Dead."

Only Billy Bragg's sensitive "Never Had No One Ever" and The Divine Comedy's "There is a Light That Never Goes On" offer any worthwhile variations to the originals.

It's a safe bet that nobody will be paying tribute to any of these bands in 10 years' time.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK CHARTS	WEEK	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	12	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#2	NEW	SPICE GIRLS	SPICE
#3	12	GEORGE MICHAEL	OLDER
#4	7	RITA	COLLECTION
#5	25	JULIO IGLESIAS	TANGO
#6	11	EAST 17	AROUND THE WORLD...
#7	NEW	OST	STEALING BEAUTY
#8	4	FUTURE SOUND...	DEAD CITIES
#9	16	FUGEES	THE SCORE
#10	2	SHLOMO ARTZI	SHNAIM
#11	NEW	VINX	LEFT ABOVE THE CLOUDS
#12	10	V/A	HITMAN 7
#13	5	BEATLES	ANTHOLOGY 3
#14	19	PAVAROTTI & FRIENDS FOR WAR CHILD	
#15	13	V/A-ROZENBLUM	HGESHEM HACHARON

Restrained Lecavalier comes alive on film

DANCE ROUNDUP
ORA BRAFMAN

La La La Human Steps - 2.
Choreography: Edouard Lock.

THE platinum spaghetti hair of the dance-lioness Louise Lecavalier flew high, accentuating every move she made, but she avoided the physical risks that earned her notoriety. In much the same way, Edouard Lock, the Canadian choreographer who previously brought his company to Israel to perform his Baroque *Infante - C'est Destroy*, restrained himself in 2.

The company's dancers stretched their bodies to the limit at high speed, and with all those magnificent flying horizontal turns in the air that have come to be Lock's signature. As an integrated part of the dance, he also screened two black-and-white films in parallel of Louise Lecavalier. The films revealed a sense of compassion never seen before in either the dancer or the choreographer. The successful integration of the films was a rare achievement.

Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, November 15

The Moiseyev Dance Company
The Road to Dance was a lesson in technique. The survival power of the Moiseyev Dance Company

in the last 60 years is largely due to the fact that they are terrific dancers. The girls are pretty and lyrical, and the men amazing, as they spring in the air.

Moiseyev's success as a bearer of a new form of entertainment that is both politically correct and still a lot of fun brought a whole line of descendants with similar intentions, mainly in Eastern European countries. (Also in the same category are the Ballet Folklorico of Mexico and in Israel the mythological company of Yonatan Karmon).

The success of staged folkloric shows is due to the enjoyable professional dancing, rich costumes, sometimes with authentic ethnic embroidery, popular and well-loved folk music and pride in the enhancement of national heritage. The best of them were considered as national companies, as they promoted national values and so they often gained generous state support.

This particular form of entertainment is losing its shine. Not because the dancers are weary, they are not. We have changed, the times are different, and with it, the measure of their relevance has lessened.

Monn Auditorium, Tel Aviv, November 14.

Refined and boisterous: JSO interprets the two sides of Vienna

CONCERT ROUNDUP

THE Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra took its attempt at going Viennese seriously - too seriously, almost. It poured all its available resources into one single piece, Johann Strauss Jr.'s *New Pizzicato Polka*, producing the elegance, delicacy and refinement that Vienna stands for.

As for the rest - a repetitively-sounding selection of the Strausses, Suppé, Lehár and Ziehrer - there was much appalling but boisterous cymbal-banging, brass-blaring, hard-working but not particularly well-balanced strings and energy. The atmosphere was more of a Stadtpark open-air event than one of an aristocratic Viennese concert hall or one of the city's dance-happy palaces.

The singular charm of Viennese operetta was captivatingly conveyed by soprano Ildiko Raimondi with her bright, flexible voice, professionally measured dosage of coquettishness, and with an enchanting sense of style. Listening to this Romanian-born star's singing to an enthusiastic audience in Jerusalem, "Wieo, Wieo, only thou alone will be the town of my dreams" in impeccable German, and with all the appropriate sentimentality and stylized schmaltz, was an experience as surrealistic as it was artistically polished.

Peter Guth from Vienna was busy playing the solo violin, conducting the orchestra and dutifully hand-clapping listeners, dancing with the singer, and performing gymnastics for the entertainment of the grateful locals. Some Viennese guests seemed politely amused by the applauding audience, even more than by the antics on the stage.

Jerusalem Theater, November 6.

Ury Eppstein

IN COMMEMORATION of Toru Takemitsu, the Japanese composer who died earlier this year, the Israeli Contemporary Players,

conducted by Paul Mefano from Paris, offered the first local performance of his *Paths* for trumpet solo, performed by Eran Reemy. Takemitsu had written the work in 1994 to commemorate the death of Lutoslawski, and so it remained faithful to its primary function.

It is a long-winded, highly-charged melodic line, progressing in unpredictable imaginative ups and downs, exploring all the instrument's ranges and delicate nuances.

One of Takemitsu's earlier and utterly different works, *Rain Coming* for chamber ensemble (1982), presented ever-changing tone colors, evoking out the sound of rain but the various moods that it creates.

Messiaen's *Oiseaux Exotiques* (1956), the oldest of the program's works, was perhaps its most innovative and daring one, unburdened by avant-garde convolutions and fashions. The intense, gripping rendition of this highly impressive and demanding work by pianist Michal Tal and the ensemble was a remarkable artistic achievement.

Messiaen's disciple, Qi-gang Chen, in his first local performance of his *Fire of Shadows* (1910) demonstrated the attempts made by many contemporary Chinese composers at combining traditional and Western elements. Echoes from the past manifested themselves in some characteristic sonorities such as the ancient oboe, in the Westernized guise of a soprano saxophone, played by Gan Lev, and some percussion instruments such as the gong.

The Western envelope was supplied somewhat forcibly by modernist-Western reminiscences of Berg, Messiaen and Ligeti.

Dan Yuhás added an Israeli contribution with his *Four Songs* by David Vogel whose tortured mood was projected depressingly, as required, by alto Mira Zakai. Jerusalem Music Center.

Mishkenot
November 10.

THE ISRAEL Sinfonietta Beersheba sounded like a "Philharmonic" under Bulgarian conductor Emil Tabakov, artistic director of the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. Tabakov belongs to a rising generation of Eastern European musicians who have established themselves in the West.

Conducting from memory, he brought objective musicianship to bear on traditional interpretations of Beethoven's First Symphony and Prokofiev's Classical Symphony.

British cellist Robert Cohen is a triumphant artist in the 19th-century tradition - fluently sensitive yet technically flamboyant. Schumann's popular Cello Concerto was performed with originality under Cohen's daring left-hand leaps.

Beersheba
November 9.

Conservatory,
Max Stern

Jerusalem opens new school for Oriental music

HELEN KAYE

NEXT year the new Center for Classic Oriental Music and Dance in Jerusalem will publish what Yehoram Gaon proudly calls the first-ever textbook on the study and teaching of Oriental music, which has been an entirely oral tradition for centuries.

Gaon is a singer whose rich tenor is best known for the way he lovingly wraps it around lyrical Ladino romances. He's also a Jerusalem city councilman who has pushed the idea of the center since he was elected in 1993.

"The study of Oriental music, and I mean mainly the music of the Islamic countries, is barely a comma in the syllabus of our music schools. At best it's a curiosity and that's a pity. There's a huge body of classical music that is simply beautiful."

The melting-pot theory of the '50s never happened, Gaon says flatly, and immigrants from North Africa and the Near East found their music and their culture derided.

The Center, open to university-

age students, opened its doors to students October 20, but it will have its official inauguration at the Jerusalem Theater tonight.

There are currently 68 students studying under 12 teachers in five departments: instrumental, vocal, theory, dance and composition.

"We are working for full academic accreditation," says center director Avi Shoshani. The school occupies an entire floor of the World Center for North African Jewish Tradition, rent free. The city provided NIS 400,000 start-up funding, of which NIS 70,000 was used for renovations. The school includes seven classrooms and an auditorium.

The 1997 budget is NIS 1.3 million, "but the municipality can only provide half of that," says Gaon. "The rest has to come from donations."

He plans to go abroad "soon" and find some donors, saying that "this is a unique institution, not only here but in the Arab world. I hope that eventually we'll have students from the Arab countries as well."

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, November 19, 1996

Histadrut set to sell Hapoalim stake today

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

US businessman Jeffrey Kiel is expected to sign an agreement to purchase the Histadrut's holdings in Bank Hapoalim for about NIS 160 million today, Histadrut treasurer Shmuel Avital said yesterday.

The purchase is part of Kiel's plans to gain control of the bank as part of a consortium headed by Israeli businessman Eliezer Fishman.

The Histadrut will sell Kiel its 3 percent stake in Bank Hapoalim at a price above the shares' value on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Avital emphasized that the sale will enable the Histadrut to repay NIS 150m. loan taken about one and a half years ago. During the last few months the financially troubled Histadrut has experienced many hardships in financing its ongoing operations, mainly because of the very large debts it has accumulated over the years.

"The Histadrut has been paying very high interest on the loan while the shares have been decreasing in value because of the slump on the stock exchange," Avital said.

For more than a year the Histadrut has been negotiating with several potential investors to sell its shares in Bank Hapoalim. Serious negotiations with Kiel commenced about six weeks ago.

Kiel will purchase the shares via an investment fund that was established about six months ago in order to invest in Israel. The \$500m. fund was founded in partnership with US investment bank Lazard Freres and Company.

Kiel, who in the past served as president of the Republic New York Corp., also intends to participate in the government's sale of its shares in Bank Hapoalim in partnership with Fishman, American Financial and Reliance. The consortium intends to purchase 35% of the bank's shares.

El Al cuts 20% of planned winter timetable to pare losses

Ex-gov't official: El Al may downsize to regional airline

DAVID HARRIS

BESET by increasing losses, El Al has decided to cut 20 percent of its planned winter schedule, company spokesman Nachman Klieman said yesterday.

This is one of a series of widespread cutbacks being implemented in an attempt to return to the company to profitability.

Also included in the measures is a program of increased layoffs of seasonal employees.

The belt-tightening exercise comes after a year of dwindling sales. The government is demanding that the company become profitable ahead of its planned privatization, slated to begin this year or next.

The schedule cuts include reducing the number of weekly flights to North America from 12 to 9.

This is only the start of El Al's downsizing, a recently retired government official involved in privatization said on Sunday.

"The company's directors are already con-

sidering the possibility of downsizing El Al from an international to regional airline," said the former official.

However, former finance minister Avraham Shohat, who worked very closely with the official, said "this appears an absurd idea to me; after all, flights to the US make the most money for the company."

Klieman also denied the company is contemplating such a move.

"There is no logic in downsizing," he said. "The company is at the right size today."

"The company is just growing into key markets, particularly in the Far East, he added. "The company is actively looking to return to profitability as we continue to gear ourselves towards privatization," he said.

ees, with 700 of the total 1,000 slated to go.

General Manager Yoel Feldschuh said last month he expects El Al will close 1996 with a \$100 million loss.

The former government official also claimed El Al only has enough money in its reserves to last for a year, if its losses continue at the current rate. Klieman refused to reveal the extent of the company's reserves.

El Al is already turning the corner, said Klieman. Reservations for November and December are increasing and the company is optimistic it can weather its current problems.

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister John Major's adviser on privatization and government efficiency, Sir Peter Levin, arrived here yesterday for a two-day visit, and met with Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy. El Al was a major topic on their agenda, with Levin having already made clear his support for a British Airways-style, public flotation of El Al.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Report recommends dividing Oil Refineries Ltd. should be separated into two companies, according to the Gruno Committee, which published its final report yesterday. One company would be based in Haifa, with the second operating out of Ashdod. The committee also called on the government to allow the opening of more gas stations, to increase competition between the companies.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said he does not accept the recommendations fully and is continuing to study the issue.

Oil Refineries Ltd., said it is still considering the conclusions of the report, but added that it believed the committee had been set up simply to recommend the splitting of the company. The company has made it clear it is against such a step, saying it will lead to additional expenditures of \$80 million a year.

Surprise! Savyon, Kfar Shmaryahu, among richest localities: Savyon, Omer, Kfar Shmaryahu and Lehavim have the highest socioeconomic standing of the country's towns and cities, according to data published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

At the low end of the scale come Rahat, Tel Sheva, Ofakim, Mas'ada, Sderot and Jasser a-Zarga.

This data will be used in part by the Interior Ministry to decide how large a grant each local authority will receive.

Among the factors taken into consideration in compiling the statistics are income sources of residents, number of motor vehicles and educational standards.



German Finance Minister Theo Waigel at the center of the stage and on a big screen at the launch party for Europe's biggest share flotation, the sale of German telecommunications giant Deutsche Telekom, yesterday in Frankfurt. The offering is worth as much as \$30 billion.

Tadiran net income up 8.5%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TADIRAN Ltd. announced an 8.5 percent rise in third-quarter net income to \$11.5 million from \$10.6m. in the corresponding quarter one year ago. Revenues in the quarter were also up from \$246.3m. last year to \$267.5m., an 8.6% increase.

The Holon-based company attributed the results to an increase in exports and commercial sales.

Following the announcement, Tadiran and Koor Industries Ltd., Tadiran's parent company, fell on the Nasdaq exchange, both by 0.5%.

Tadiran is Israel's largest electronics company and one of Israel's leading exporters. The company develops and manufactures a range of high-tech commercial and defense communications products, electronic systems and consumer appliances.

First International Bank's two mortgage subsidiaries completed the third quarter with a growth in earnings, despite the slowdown prevailing in the real estate sector.

The First International Mortgage Bank, in which the First International Bank has an 80% share, completed the third quarter with a net profit of NIS 10m., compared with a net profit of NIS 4.7m. in the corresponding period last year. In the first nine months of the year, net profits rose 46.2% to NIS 25.4m., compared with NIS 17.4m. in the same period last year.

Net return on equity, on an annual basis, rose to 11.6% from 8.6% in the same period last year.

Atzmaut Mortgage Bank reported a net profit of NIS 4.5m. in the third quarter, up from NIS 2.4m. in the same period last year. In the first nine months, net profits grew 44.6% to NIS 12m. from NIS 8.3m. Net return on equity on an annual basis rose to 13.2% from 10.1% in the same period last year.

Makhteshim Chemical Works posted a drop in earnings in the third quarter of 1996, to \$2.6m. from \$3.5m. in the same period last year.

Management blamed the decrease on a growth in financing expenses in the framework of management's strategy to expand into new markets. In the third quarter Makhteshim established a new company in Argentina in partnership with Agn.

In the first nine months of the year net profits rose to \$25.5m. from \$23.9m.

Third-quarter sales grew 31.5% to \$118.9m. from \$90.2m., partly as a result of a growth in sales to the US. In the first nine months of the year sales grew 16% to \$416m. from \$359m.

Jennifer Friedlin contributed to this report.

Donors push territories infrastructure projects

HILLEL KUTTNER WASHINGTON

ACCELERATING movement on key infrastructure projects in the territories is the goal at the upcoming meeting of the consultative group of international donors, a senior US official said Sunday.

Developing industrial parks and water systems will be among the central items considered, the official added.

The session is to be held in Paris tomorrow and Wednesday and will be the first such meeting since the group met earlier this year in Brussels.

An "informal" meeting of the group took place in Washington in September to deal with recurring deficits in the Palestinian Authority budget. The budget deficit will also be on the agenda this week.

In Paris, the PA is expected to make a "compelling presentation to the donor community on where they see their priorities" for major infrastructure development, the US official

said. The meeting will essentially "restore the original focus of the donors program [on] how best the donor community can assist on several long-term infrastructure projects," he said.

The US delegation is being headed by officials from the Agency for International Development, Margaret Carpenter and Terry Brown, the State Department's director of the Israel and Arab affairs desk David Satterfield and Jim Wilder of the Treasury Department.

PA Planning Minister, Nahil Shaath, will represent the Palestinian Authority and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat may also attend, the official said.

Norway chairs the consultative group. Other participants are Canada, Russia, the EU, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Israel, the UN, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia.

Swissair mulls Israel expansion despite fall in local passengers

HAIM SHAPIRO

SWISSAIR had a drop of 7 percent in its number of Israeli passengers from January to August 1995, compared with the same period of 1995.

However, the airline still wants to increase its flights here.

The reason, Swissair Israel manager David Eisenmann told a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday, is that at the same time the percentage of foreign passengers coming to Israel on Swissair went up by 4%.

Eisenmann explained the decline in passengers from Israel as a result of a company policy out to lower fares, even when faced with bargain rates from competing airlines.

On the other hand, Eisenmann said, there was a dramatic increase in Swissair passengers from other countries flying to Israel. The number of passengers travelling from the US to

Israel on Swissair increased by 38% in the January through August period.

Swissair has come to an agreement with El Al, Eisenmann said, that will mean the lowest fare between the two countries is to be \$530 as of the end of the month. At present, El Al offers a fare of \$299.

This year, as a result of environmental considerations, the Swiss had decided to close Geveva airport to the wide-bodied planes used by the airline on its Israel flights, thus reducing the number of Swissair flights to seven.

Swissair has asked to increase the number of flights to 11, the same as El Al has between Israel and Switzerland.

So far, El Al has opposed the request. In an effort to promote its case, Swissair has appealed to the Swiss Civil Aviation Authority.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS				
Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.8.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	Rep.
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375	3.250
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	2.575
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.825	2.125	2.825
Swiss franc (CHF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000	4.125
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (18.11.96)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.0775	3.2525	3.14	3.30
German mark	2.1255	2.1585	2.08	2.19
Pound sterling	5.3575	5.4235	5.24	5.50
French franc	0.8287	0.8389	0.81	0.85
Japanese yen (100)	2.8738	2.9202	2.82	2.97
Dutch florin	1.8951	1.9257	1.86	1.95
Swiss franc	2.5079	2.5484	2.48	2.58
Swedish krona	0.4851	0.4909	0.47	0.50
Norwegian krone	0.5043	0.5125	0.49	0.52
Denish krone	0.5534	0.5624	0.54	0.57
Finnish mark	0.7054	0.7168	0.69	0.73
Corwegian dollar	2.3874	2.4260	2.34	2.46
Australian dollar	2.5522	2.5731	2.48	2.61
S. African rand	0.8881	0.8972	0.82	1.07
Belgian franc (10)	1.0310	1.0477	1.01	1.07
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0194	3.0681	2.96	3.12
Italian lira (1000)	2.1095	2.1438	2.07	2.18
Jordanian dinar	4.4500	4.7800	4.46	4.78
Egyptian pound	0.9100	0.9800	0.81	0.96
ECU	4.0817	4.1478	4.02	4.12
Irish punt	5.3440	5.4302	5.28	5.51
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5243	2.5651	2.48	2.61
*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.				
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI				

Bezeq phones to be fully digital by year's end

JUDY SIEGEL

ALL of Bezeq's phone exchanges will be digital by the end of December, company director-general Yitzhak Kaul said yesterday. This will put Israel among an exclusive club of countries with completely digitized (rather than analog) telecommunications systems.

Digital switching systems are nearly trouble free, quick, require less maintenance and human intervention, and provide a wide variety of services, including follow me, call back, automated collect calls and personal answering machines.

On a tour of Bezeq's Haifa and northern district, Kaul instructed managers to have staff working three shifts a day to complete the digitization.

Meanwhile, Bezeq and Rafael, the authority for weapons development, are looking into possible technological cooperation in the field of satellite communications and communications technologies using radio systems.

Yishai hopes for drop in unemployment next year

DAVID HARRIS

LABOR and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai yesterday called on his ministry to aim to reduce unemployment in 1997.

While the Treasury has made it clear since July it expects a 0.5 percent increase in unemployment to 6.6% next year, the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry said yesterday it wants to see a decline.

However, no specific targets were quoted.

Yishai said by concentrating efforts on employment blackspots and offering vocational training, there will be an eventual decrease in the number of jobless.

Measures must be implemented "that will bring an improvement in the condition of the families of unemployed people, including increasing skill levels in the workforce and the reassignment of duties in the workplace," said Yishai.

Separately, the seasonally adjusted

number of people registered as actively seeking employment fell 3.2% in October to 118,500, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs reported yesterday.

Some 7,900 people enrolled for the first time at government employment centers last month.

The number of younger jobseekers (under 35) fell as a proportion of the total, to 45.2% from 46% in September.

There was a marked increase in the number of Arab jobseekers last month, up 700, to 9,200.

In regional terms, the highest unemployment was registered in the eastern Negev (9.5%), and the south (7.4%). Nine towns registered unemployment levels higher than 10% in October. They were Ofakim (14.2%), Mizpeh Ramon (12.5%), Yeroham (12.4%), and Kiryat Gat 12%. In September, only five areas reported higher than 10% jobless totals.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Consumers ask US to look again at spartame

Key Representative Rates table with columns for currency, rate, and change.

Consumers ask US to look again at aspartame

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Two US consumer groups called yesterday for a new Food and Drug Administration review of the safety of aspartame...

The request was based on a newly published study that noted an increase in brain tumor rates and said that of several possible factors, aspartame is a promising candidate to explain the increase.

But brain tumor rates have been stable or declined slightly despite a vast increase in use of the artificial sweetener, and an FDA spokesman indicated that a new round of safety studies was not likely.

They haven't submitted data that would cause us to do that (order new studies), FDA spokesman Arthur Whitmore said. Food industry groups said the study was flawed and its conclusions are based on speculation, not science.

Smoking pill research to continue

MINNETONA, Minn. (Reuters) - Researchers developing a new pill to help smokers kick the nicotine habit have received US government approval to continue their work...

Lectec Corp said the Food and Drug Administration had approved a new drug research application for its nicotine-based pill aimed at helping people stop smoking.

In another recent development, the US Patent Office has allowed a second patent covering the therapeutic claims that nicotine is a pharmaceutical useful for helping people stop smoking.

TEL AVIV STOCKS table with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, and Parallel List.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK logo and text: Due to technical difficulties we cannot provide US stock data.

Kellogg buying bagel brand for \$455m.

DETROIT (Reuters) - Kellogg Company, in a move to broaden its breakfast food business and help offset sluggish cereal sales, said yesterday it will acquire the Lender's Bagels business from Kraft Foods Inc. for \$455 million.

Lender's, based in White Plains, New York, is the nation's largest maker of fresh and frozen bagels sold in grocery stores, with annual sales of about \$275m. Kraft is owned by Philip Morris Co. Inc., the New York-based food and tobacco giant.

French truckers protest for better work conditions

PARIS (Reuters) - Truckers caused traffic chaos across France on Monday by blocking roads in protests demanding more money and shorter working hours.

Union leaders urged members to continue their protests today accusing Transport Minister Bernard Pons of failing to meet their demands at a meeting in Paris yesterday afternoon.

TURMOIL

(Continued from Page 1) Arafat on delaying the deal, saying they were not worthy of a "peace" agreement.

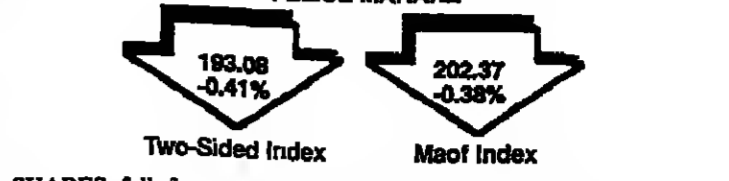
He called on Labor to boycott Netanyahu both in the Knesset plenum and especially in committee meetings, unless he publicly apologizes for leaking the slanderous information and blackening Peres's name.

Labor MK Yossi Beilin accused Netanyahu of creating the issue. He called on Labor to boycott Netanyahu both in the Knesset plenum and especially in committee meetings, unless he publicly apologizes for leaking the slanderous information and blackening Peres's name.

He said, however, that the PA and the Arab world are trying to use the Israeli opposition and exploit the split in Israeli society to delay the agreement.

Shares decline as investors await central bank meeting

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



SHARES fell for a second day yesterday ahead of next week's meeting of the Bank of Israel to discuss whether to lower interest rates.

"Investors are waiting for Monday's interest rate decision," said Shahar Gazit, a trader at Tel Aviv investment firm Batucha Securities & Investments Ltd.

With the central bank's rate for lending to banks at 15.2 percent, shekel-denominated investments are attractive in comparison with stocks, pushing investment away from shares.

And while the central bank is expected to cut rates by as much as 30 basis points, that would not be sufficient to make equity investments attractive enough, traders said.

The Maof index of 25 issues fell 0.38% to 202.37 and the Mishtan index of 100 issues fell 0.41% to 193.08. The gochrol bond index was unchanged.

Of 976 shares trading across the exchange, nearly eight shares fell for every five that rose. Some NIS 39.7 million of shares changed hands.

Losses were led by Tadiran Ltd., which said its third-quarter earnings were priced at 0.50 Sunday.

Despite the enthusiasm, however, Germany's 30-share DAX index ended 31 points, or 1.14% down, at 2,763.84. In later computerized trade, the IBIS DAX was at 2,776.27.

The London stock market ended a lackluster session only marginally higher as skepticism about Wall Street's ability to sustain its record-breaking run and worries about next week's budget nibbled at investor confidence.

Traders said bid speculation swirling around British Gas and favorable government borrowing figures should have set the stage for healthy gains, but the FTSE 100 index managed to eke out only a 3.9 point gain to close at 3,962.1.

French stocks fell on profit-taking following the bourse's 1.6% rise last week, but traders said sentiment remained positive and the market should resume its advance after a brief pause.

The blue-chip CAC-40 index closed down 11.52 points, or 0.51%, at 2,228.81, while the CAC-40 November futures contract fell 11 points to 2,231.

The NYSE's most active issue was the Deutsche Telekom, which rose from an offering price of nearly \$19 as the German state phone monopoly raised about \$13.3 billion in an initial public offering.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by a narrow margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,175 up, 1,227 down and 904 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 388.05 million shares as of 4 p.m., vs. 526.65 million in the previous session.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 0.60 to 737.02, and the NYSE's composite index fell 0.12 to 389.90. Both measures had finished at record highs on Friday.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 7.23 to 1,254.57, and the American Stock Exchange's market volume index fell 1.23 to 584.18.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES table with columns for currency, Mark, Sterling, Yen, SP, and FF.

Kahalani has list of 33 CIS mafia suspects

BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

THE police have provided the Interior Ministry with a list of 33 people believed to be part of an organized crime group from the CIS operating in Israel, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told the Knesset's Aliya Committee yesterday.

"Only one [of the suspected mafia members] is Jewish and entered Israel legally. The others obtained Israeli documents illegally through fictitious marriages or bought false documents... To my regret, this group has managed to cast aspersions on an entire aliya," Kahalani said.

Kahalani said that the police unit investigating organized crime has 20 members and is in touch with similar units in the CIS.

Kahalani confirmed that the police have a document showing that a meeting had been organized for the prime minister with Gregory Luchansky, who reputedly has connections with organized crime. Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky also met with this person, Kahalani said.

People who wish to make aliya are thoroughly checked in their home countries. Ya'acov Kedmi, head of the Liaison Bureau in the

Prime Minister's Office, told the committee. "However, most of the people on the list that Kahalani mentioned received Israeli IDs through fictitious marriages in Israel. Others acquired false documents. They are very wealthy and can afford to buy real documents and therefore it is hard to track them down," Kedmi said.

"There are criminals that manage to infiltrate in every aliya but the case with which criminals from Russia get visas to come here, real or false, is unacceptable," committee chairperson Naomi Blumenthal commented.

MK Ofer Pines (Labor) called for an investigation into whether rumors were true that the Likud and Yisrael Ba'aliya parties were funded by the mafia. He said he had received threats on his life since mentioning this.

MK Yurii Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) blamed the police for stigmatization. He said that "it is simply not feasible that every investor or rich immigrant from Russia should be considered part of the mafia." Stern demanded that the police "stop leaking reports that have a critical impact on the aliya from the CIS."



Cindy Friedman of Miami, who works at Hillel House on the Hebrew University campus on Jerusalem's Mt. Scopus, gets a copy of 'The Jerusalem Post' from the new automatic vending machine at the Goldsmith Building of the School for Overseas Students yesterday. Machines are also operating in the cafeteria at Yad Vashem and at the United Tours office/pick-up point next to the King David Hotel. Two additional machines are to begin operating tomorrow in Tel Aviv, at the American Embassy and the Diaspora Museum. (Itim Harel)

WEATHER

Jerusalem 18-25
Tel Aviv 18-24
Haifa 18-23
Beersheva 17-24
Dead Sea 20-26

Forecast: Rainy.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Notes
Amsterdam	04	05	rain
Berlin	05	06	cloudy
Buenos Aires	14	20	clear
Chicago	10	11	cloudy
London	08	09	rain
Los Angeles	10	11	cloudy
Madrid	08	09	rain
Moscow	02	03	rain
New York	07	08	rain
Paris	06	07	rain
Rome	10	11	rain
Sydney	18	19	rain
Tokyo	08	09	rain
Toronto	07	08	rain
Vancouver	10	11	rain
Zurich	02	03	rain

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beware buying wedding rings on credit
A bridegroom from a moshav in the North who bought a wedding ring via his credit card almost had to redo his wedding ceremony, after the credit card company failed to debit his account on time, meaning the ring still technically belonged to the shop he bought it from when the wedding took place.

The matter was presented to former Chief Sephardi Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, who ruled the wedding was valid because the delay was the company's, and not his. However, the rabbi warned bridegrooms not to buy wedding rings via credit cards, unless it is clear they will be paid for before the wedding takes place.

"You cannot legally wed a woman with a ring that does not belong to the bridegroom," he said. *Itim*

Search renewed for missing soldier
Central Police District commander Supt. Shlomo Aharonishki yesterday decided to renew the search for missing soldier Sharon Edri of Moshav Zanoah, near Beit Shmesh.

The search is to last two days and will include some 400 policemen, volunteers, soldiers and Civil Guard personnel. The search is focusing on the area along the road from Modi'in to Maccabim, from the Gimzo Junction via Mitzpe Modi'in, Mewo Modi'in, the Shilat Junction and the surrounding vicinity. The police set up a temporary command center in the Ben-Shimon Youth Village. Edri was last seen in the area of the Tzrifin military base. *Itim*

MDA: Drivers should pass first-aid course
Passing a first-aid and resuscitation course should be a condition for receiving a driver's license. Mago David Adom training department head Natan Kudinsky said yesterday. Kudinsky asked the Transportation Ministry's licensing bureau to implement this recommendation.

Every year, 150,000 people receive driving licenses, thus such a condition would be an excellent way to increase first-aid skills in the population, he said. MDA ambulances evacuate 30,000 people injured in road accidents. The cost of training drivers would be NIS 10.5 million, Kudinsky estimated, and could be paid for by the applicants. *Judy Siegel*

Court rules Ruti Nahmani can implant eggs in surrogate

RUTI Nahmani is free to go ahead and have her fertilized eggs implanted in a surrogate mother, after the Haifa District Court ruled yesterday that the Surrogacy Law does not apply to her case, and her husband Danny's permission is no longer required for their implantation.

Danny Nahmani's lawyer, Diana Har-Even, said she would appeal the decision to the Supreme Court, and would seek a restraining order to prevent Ruti Nahmani from implanting the eggs until the case is heard.

Danny Nahmani, who is separated from Ruti, had appealed to the Haifa District Court after the Supreme Court had ruled Ruti could use the eggs. He asked the district court to forbid her from having the eggs implanted unless she did so under the terms of the Surrogacy Law, which requires the agreement of both parents for such a move. He argued that the Supreme Court's ruling did not obviate her from acting in accordance with the law.

However, Ruti's lawyer, Ziv Gruber, argued that the Supreme Court had allowed Ruti to implant the eggs in a surrogate mother without any interference by her husband, and that the Surrogacy Law did not apply to her case at all.

Judge Hanoch Ariel ruled that the Surrogacy Law should not be applied to this case, since making Ruti Nahmani adhere to the law now would effectively cancel the High Court's ruling.

Ariel noted that the Nahmanis had agreed to implant the fertilized eggs in a surrogate mother abroad before the Surrogacy Law was passed.

"Danny's demand to obey the requirements of the Surrogacy Law, among them his giving his written consent to the surrogacy and other acts for which his approval would be required, cannot be applied in this case. This is because the eggs have already been fertilized, which is the second stage after the agreement with the surrogate mother, according to the Surrogacy Law," he said.

"Moreover, Danny's agreement to this was clearly given even earlier, and the Supreme Court ruled in its additional hearing that he cannot backtrack on it, and it is binding regarding the surrogacy."

"We hope Ruti will become a mother despite every obstacle and the fact that Danny is indeed trying to place every possible obstacle in her path," Gruber said after the ruling. *(Itim)*

TA judge refers sperm case to A-G

THE attorney-general has been asked to issue a response to a woman's request that a court rule her dead husband's sperm is her property, which she can use for in vitro fertilization of her eggs.

The hearing on the woman's case was held yesterday before Tel Aviv District Court Judge Gabriel Klingler.

The woman's husband was sick with cancer until his death in October, and the disease prevented the couple from having children. Several months before his death, he was found to have usable sperm which would allow his wife to become pregnant.

A sperm sample was taken from the man and immediately frozen. Nine days after he provided the sperm, his condition suddenly worsened, and he died four months later.

The woman claims that before he died, her husband asked to bring a child into the world, but his sudden death prevented them from going ahead with the necessary treatment.

After he died, she asked the company with which his sperm was stored for it. The company agreed, but asked to first receive the court's approval. *(Itim)*

Israeli passengers safe after emergency landing in Djibouti

AN Air India flight that took off Sunday night from Ben-Gurion Airport en route to Bombay was forced to make an emergency landing yesterday in Djibouti, a small east African country that is a member of the Arab League and does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

There were some 40 Israelis among the flights 150 passengers. All were reported safe.

The passengers were taken after the landing to a local Sheraton hotel, and soon afterward reports about the incident were received by the Foreign Ministry's situation room. Israeli passengers were later reached directly at the hotel.

One Israeli woman told Israel Radio that the Israelis felt "tense" but were not being treated differently than the other passengers. She said the plane had been forced to land because of a fuel leak.

Air India's representative here said a plane would be flown today to Djibouti to pick up the passengers and bring them to Bombay. *(Itim)*

Hebrew U. gets smart

JUDY SIEGEL

HEBREW University students may forget the formulas for cosines and tangents and the dates of various historical wars, but from now on, they mustn't forget their smart cards in their dorm rooms.

These pieces of plastic - the first of their kind on an Israeli campus - will serve as portable, individual data files with grades, academic status, tuition payments and personal data stored inside.

Until now, a considerably more primitive smart card system instituted experimentally by Bezeq on the Bar-Ilan University campus has served as an electronic wallet for petty-cash purchases and for making phone calls. But the HU card, whose functions are to be introduced gradually, will offer more sophisticated options.

Called a Unicard and displaying the bearer's photo, name and identity number, it contains a computer chip with a microprocessor, memory and sophisticated means of data storage and encryption. The technology is a joint project of the university, Caspit Ltd. and Be'er Printers.

It is already being used to borrow books from the libraries and identify students at exams. The card will also be an ID card, give access to computerized university services and databases and serve as a money card for purchasing goods and services at campus stores.

President Weizman to visit India

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma, are to pay a state visit to India at the end of December, it was announced in Jerusalem yesterday. This will be the first such visit to India by an Israeli head of state.

Weizman will meet with his host, Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma, and will lay a wreath on the grave of Mahatma Gandhi.

In Bombay, the president will meet with the local Jewish community. He also will pay a nostalgic visit to the base at Yalanka where he served during World War II as a pilot in the Royal Air Force. *Batsheva Tsur*

Man dies in road accident in North

DAVID RUDGE

THE earnings on the roads continued in the North yesterday with a fatal accident which blocked the Wadi Milik road between Yokne'am and Zichron Ya'acov for several hours.

The driver of a pick-up truck was killed when his vehicle collided head-on with a semi-trailer early in the morning. He was later identified as Baruch Sheinfeld, 52, of Moshav Katzir.

Police said that the pick-up truck was travelling in the direction of Zichron Ya'acov from Yokne'am when the driver apparently lost control, swerved into the opposite lane and crashed into the oncoming vehicle.

There had been light rain in the area and the weather conditions were very overcast at the time. Police inquiries into the cause of the accident are continuing.

Egyptian court remands Azzam for 45 days

BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

AN Egyptian military court yesterday remanded Azzam Azzam, the Israeli citizen being held on suspicion of espionage, for a further 45 days. No indictment has yet been filed.

In an interview yesterday with Channel 2's Aharon Barnea, conducted in the presence of Egypt's chief security prosecutor, Azzam said he was being treated well and had not been physically abused.

According to Azzam, Imad Ishma'il, an Egyptian who was also arrested in connection with the case, was one of a group of 14 Israeli executives who had come to study production methods at the Tafton firm, where Azzam works.

Azzam said he had taken Ishma'il to visit a small production plant in the Druse village of Ein el-Asad in the Galleh, which makes undershirts for an American firm. Ishma'il had asked for some samples, and the factory forewoman put a few undershirts in a bag and told him to give them to Ishma'il. He brought them to Ishma'il, who was waiting in the car.

The Egyptians claim that there was invisible ink found in the bag. The Egyptian general prosecutor said Ishma'il had admitted that the forewoman was the one who had drafted him to work for the Mossad. Azzam, in the interview, denied any involvement with espionage.

Azzam's Egyptian lawyer had proposed to the court that the Israeli Embassy pay a fine to obtain his release, but the idea was rejected, Israel Radio reported.

Burial societies to face Ben-Porat's scrutiny

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset State Control Committee decided unanimously yesterday that burial societies should be subject to the scrutiny of the state comptroller.

The decision must now be approved by the plenum, but is unlikely to encounter any problems there.

The suggestion to subject burial societies to the comptroller's scrutiny came from State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat herself, but MKs agreed that it was a good idea.

Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) noted that burial societies provide an important service to all residents at an especially difficult time in their lives. They are also funded by the state, via the National Insurance Institute, to the tune of more than NIS 100 million a year. The combination of these two facts makes it appropriate to subject the country's 500 burial societies to the comptroller's scrutiny, he said.

Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) added that order needs to be imposed on the entire issue of burials, including the allocation of land for cemeteries. Ben-Porat's supervision could assist this task, he said.

The committee's decision comes against the background of scandals involving inflated salaries and pensions in the burial societies.

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